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## ABSTRACT

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5 First, monochromatic near infrared light in a wavelength range of 700nm -  
through the optical fiber 7 to measure a transmitted light intensity of the ceramic plate  
which is a reference material for spectrum measurement. Next, in place of the ceramic  
plate, a blood collection tube 4 containing a blood sample of which the temperature has  
been adjusted at a predetermined temperature by a water bath and the like is inserted  
10 into the housing portion 5. The transmitted light intensity of the blood sample is thus  
measured using the same procedure as above. A so-called near infrared absorption  
spectrum in which absorbance has been plotted against wavelengths is displayed on the  
screen of the computer 2. Information about object characteristics is extracted from the  
spectrum data using a calibration equation.

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